

To His Grace the Earl of Melvil, Their Majesties  
High Commissioner, and the Honourable  
Estates of Parliament,

The Supplication of Their Majesties kindly Tennents,  
in the four Towns of Lochmaben,

Humbly Sheweth,

**T**hat your Petitioners and their Predecessors, having for several Generations by-past, been kindly Tennents to Their Majesties Predecessors, in the Lands of the foresaids four Towns, presently possessed by us; And King James the 6th. having Disposed to the Earl of Annandale Murray, the Castle, Constabulary, and Castle-Lands of Lochmaben, whereof the foresaids four Towns possessed by us, are a part; His Majesty and His Successors, notwithstanding thereof, did still take your Petitioners and their Predecessors under their special Royal Protection, and Discharged us to be removed from our respective Possessions, so long as we made payment to the said Earl of Annandale and his Successors, of our Maills and Duties, as is clear by several Signatures, and Warrants under the hands of King James the Sixth, and King Charles the Second, ready to be produced: And the late Viscount of Stormount having succeeded in the late Earl of Annandale's Right to these Lands, he at the special desire of the deceased King Charles the Second, did grant a special Obligement, not to remove us from our Possessions; but in respect we will acknowledge ourselves to be Tennents to none but the King, we were so oppressed, that the Valuation of our Lands, which was formerly but about 1000 pounds Scots, is now made upwards of 4400 merks; and albeit our former Valuation was greater than any so much Rent in the Countrey of Annandale; yet the Valuers for the time, as a Cloak for our unjust Oppression, did value the Priviledge we had of not being removed, to as much as our yearly Rent, and a fourth part more, albeit we did pay as much for our Land as any other in that Countrey pays for Lands of the like quality and extent; and which is more absurd, they did not only measure and value our Grass, but likewise our Common Moor, as separat and distinct Interests; notwithstanding that our yearly Rent was payed for all *in cumulo*, and that there was never any Grass, or Commonly valued in the Shire where we live; And albeit our said Valuation be more than double what our Lands are worth of payable Rent, yet so far have we been oppressed hitherto, that we was quartered upon, for all Cess and publick Burdens, as if we had been Heretors, and we never received any allowance of the saids publick Burdens out of our Rents, albeit we be but kindly Tennents, and that never any of us, or our Predecessors had any Infeftment, or pretence of Heretage in the Land, but the benefit of being kindly Tennents allanerly; and the late Viscount of Stormount having upon pretence, that we the King's kindly Tennents were overvalued, obtained a Ratification of the Valuation of his whole Lands *in cumulo*, and thereupon received a deduction and abatement of 5000 merks from

from his yearly Valuation: Yet your Petitioners have received no share of that abatement, but on the contrair a new burden was laid upon us, for easing and relieving the Viscounts other Tennents. By all which it is evident, that having the honour to be repute the King's kindly Tennents, we are more oppressed than any Tennents in the Kingdom, and that thereby many of our Neighbours have been forced to Renounce their Dependence upon Their Majesties, and become moveable Tennents to the Viscount of Stormont, and upon their so doing, are immediatly relieved of the half, or two part of the publick Burdens, by the Viscount and his Chamberlain; and seing that we and our predecessors, have been for so many Generations, under the special and immediat Protection of the Crown, and that we are most unwilling to depart from the honour thereof.

May it therefore please your Grace, and the Honourable Estates of Parliament, to take the Premisses, and our sad oppressed Condition to Consideration, and to Ordain our Valuation to be Rectified, and restricted to the yearly Duty, payable by us, and to recommend to such persons as your Grace and the Honourable Estates shall think fit, to see the same Valued and proportioned, according as other Lands of the like Rent in the Countrey are Valued; and to Declare, that seing we are only kindly Tennents, and not Heretors, we shall only be lyable in payment of publick Burdens as other Tennents, and that in case we be forced to advance any part of the publick Burdens, due and payable by the Heretors, the same shall be allowed to us in the first end of the Mails and Duties, yearly payable by us to the Viscount of Stormont; And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.